

Wycombe foiled by fog

UNHAPPY Wycombe Wanderers ran into new frustration on Saturday. Their Isthmian League match at Dulwich Hamlet was abandoned after 20 minutes with them leading 1-0.

What football was played took place in ludicrous conditions. "The game should never have been started", opined Wanderers treasurer Roger Lee. "The conditions when we arrived at the ground were not good, but by the time they kicked off it was impossible".

The start in fact had been delayed by several minutes while another difficulty was being sorted out. For when the teams appeared, both were wearing identical light blue shirts.

Dulwich returned to their dressing rooms, donned white shirts, and emerged again into one of the worst South London fogs for seasons.

Those sitting parallel with the centre circle could see only faint shadows as play kicked off. Ten feet inside either touchline, figures began disappearing behind the curtain of fog. And Wycombe's goalkeeper John Maskell had no possible chance of following events when his colleagues were raiding the Dulwich half.

It was in these conditions that Keith Searle scored for the Wanderers from ten yards out in the 18th minute.

Shortly after his goal, the referee called the players off field and 15 minutes later he abandoned the game entirely.

Meanwhile both Sutton United and Wealdstone could rejoice at Wycombe's ill-luck.

Sutton won their match with Walthamstow to take a clear ten point lead at the top of the table. Wycombe cannot afford a single slip in their five games in hand.

Wealdstone, Wanderers' Amateur Cup opponents on Saturday at Loakes Park — weather and ground conditions permitting — can take heart that they were the last team to meet Wanderers, beating them 1-0 in a floodlight League fixture just prior to Christmas.

Wycombe, with no game arranged for midweek this week, will go into their important Cup match with a recent run of unimpressive performances to offset.

But the Stones too fell foul of the fog. They were nearby at Tooting and losing a London Senior Cup tie 1-0 when their clash was also called off due to failing visibility.

Several hapless Wycombe officials made a quick dash to Sandy Lane to see the remainder of this game once Wycombe's had been cut short, hoping to gain something at least from the shambles.

Again their luck failed: by the time they arrived the Tooting-Wealdstone match was also over for the afternoon.

CUP TIE POINTER: Vince Faulkner was being tried in midfield as a number 6 on Saturday.